

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY PLAN SUMMARY

I. Services and programs that will remain operational.

Please list major services that will continue at the agency and identify the reason each is able to continue – either “other funding source” or “necessary for the safety of life and the protection of property.”

NAME OF SERVICE/PROGRAM	REASON
VBA: Ongoing payments and processing of compensation and pension; ongoing payments only of education and vocational rehabilitation benefits; Some call centers; Public contact activities; Mail activities; Home Loan Guaranty Program; Insurance Program	All VBA employees will be funded through carryover balances for a limited time. After funds are expended, mandatory funds are available to pay ongoing benefits. C&P claims processing, call centers, public contact and mail activities continue to protect property rights.
VHA: Medical services, Medical support and compliance, Medical facilities, Medical and prosthetic research	Most activities are funded through ADVANCE appropriations. Medical and prosthetic research activities will be funded through carryover balances.
NCA: Burials; Process applications for headstones, markers, medallions; First Notice of Death Office; Oversight and Administration	Activities are excepted to protect life and property. Burials to continue. Headstone applications, markers and medallions activities are funded.
OIT: Direct and indirect support to administrations and Staff Offices as needed to maintain their excepted functions; Network maintenance and protection; Information Security; Data Center Operations; Excepted Benefits functions; Enterprise Infrastructure Operations	Initially, all OIT employees will be funded through carryover balances. After FY2010 funds are expended, many staff will be excepted to protect life and property (through their support of VA medical activities) and necessary implication (for their support of the mandatory benefits programs).
Other Department Offices: BVA, HRA, OALC, OGC, OM, OPIA, OCLA, OIG, OSP, OPP, and OSVA	Many functions supported through reimbursable funding or revolving fund. Remaining employees funded through carryover balances for a limited time. After funds are expended, a small number of staff will be excepted as necessary. OIG Law Enforcement Officers conducting criminal investigations will remain on duty.

II. Services and programs that will be closed.

- **Veterans Health Administration:** None.
- **Veterans Benefits Administration:** Processing of new or pending Education and Vocational Rehabilitation benefit claims; Overseas Military Coordinator; Outreach; Education Call Center.
- **National Cemetery Administration:** Processing applications for Presidential Memorial Certificates; Activities at NCA Training Center. NCA will conduct interments at a modified rate (i.e. not to exceed the average number of daily burials at a facility over the past year).
- **Acquisitions, Logistics and Construction:** Major construction and leasing programs; Technical architectural, engineering and real property consulting support.
- **Board of Veterans Appeals:** All activities and services will be discontinued.
- **Congressional Affairs:** Congressional relations; Responding to congressional requests for information; Processing testimony and questions for the record; Congressional correspondence; Constituent casework.

- **General Counsel:** Ongoing litigation, including cases before the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and other tribunals to the extent that continuances can be obtained; Routine legal services for VHA, VBA, NCA and Staff Offices regarding personnel law, ethics, torts, and other legal matters.
- **Human Resources:** HR Policy; Recruiting; Hiring; Staffing; Training; Labor-Management Relations; ADR; Diversity; Classification; VACO building maintenance support; Veteran Employment Outreach.
- **Inspector General:** Audits and Evaluations; Administrative Investigations; OIG Hotline; Healthcare Inspections; OIG Legal and Release of Information.
- **Management:** Green/Energy programs; Performance Management; Asset Enterprise Management; Financial policy and oversight; Budget formulation and analysis.
- **Public and Intergovernmental Affairs:** National programs and special events; Tribal Government Relations; National Veterans Awareness Campaign; Interaction with state and local government and international visitors; Consumer affairs phone and e-mail assistance would be suspended.
- **Policy and Planning:** Strategic Planning; policy Development; VA Governance; VA/DoD Collaboration; Multi-year Programming; Program Analysis; Oversight of Major Initiatives; Data Governance.
- **Security Operations:** National Security Planning and Operations; Policy Program Inspections; HSPD-12; Personnel Security and Suitability; Resource Management.

III. Key citizen services that will be impacted.

- **Veterans Benefits Administration:**
 - VA will not be able to process Education and Vocational Rehabilitation benefits during a shutdown, including processing of new beneficiaries and administration of vocational counseling services.
 - The education call center will be closed.
- **National Cemetery Administration:**
 - During a shutdown, NCA will conduct interments at a modified rate (i.e., not to exceed the average number of daily burials at a facility over the past year). NCA will not process applications for Presidential Memorial Certificates. Maintenance of cemetery grounds will be accomplished by cemetery personnel only as time permits. States awaiting grants for the construction of Veterans cemeteries could experience delays in processing applications.
- **Board of Veterans Appeals:**
 - No hearings will be held and no decisions on appeals or motions will be issued until funding for the Board is restored, at which time normal operations will resume.
- **Inspector General:**
 - Administrative Investigations – Office of Inspector General independent review of allegations against Department of Veterans Affairs senior leadership involving serious waste, abuse, and mismanagement will stop during the lapse in appropriations.
 - OIG Hotline – Upon the lapse in appropriations, the Office of Inspector General Hotline will close and staff will not be on duty to perform intake, evaluation, and referral of complaints involving VA programs and operations.
 - OIG Legal and Release of Information –Office of Inspector General work responding to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and legal services related to Privacy Act requests will cease.

- **Public and Intergovernmental Affairs:**
 - VA will not respond to routine media inquiries. General inquiries to VA from Veterans, the public and other stakeholders will not be answered.
 - VA's Internet homepage and social media sites such as facebook, twitter, flickr, youtube and the VA blog will be updated intermittently, limiting stakeholder information and online interaction with the Department.
- **Security Operations:**
 - All Veterans will continue to benefit from full law enforcement activities at VA facilities.

IV. Employees.

- Total Agency Employees: 312,628
- Total Employees Excepted: 286,428
- Total Employees Furloughed: 8,354